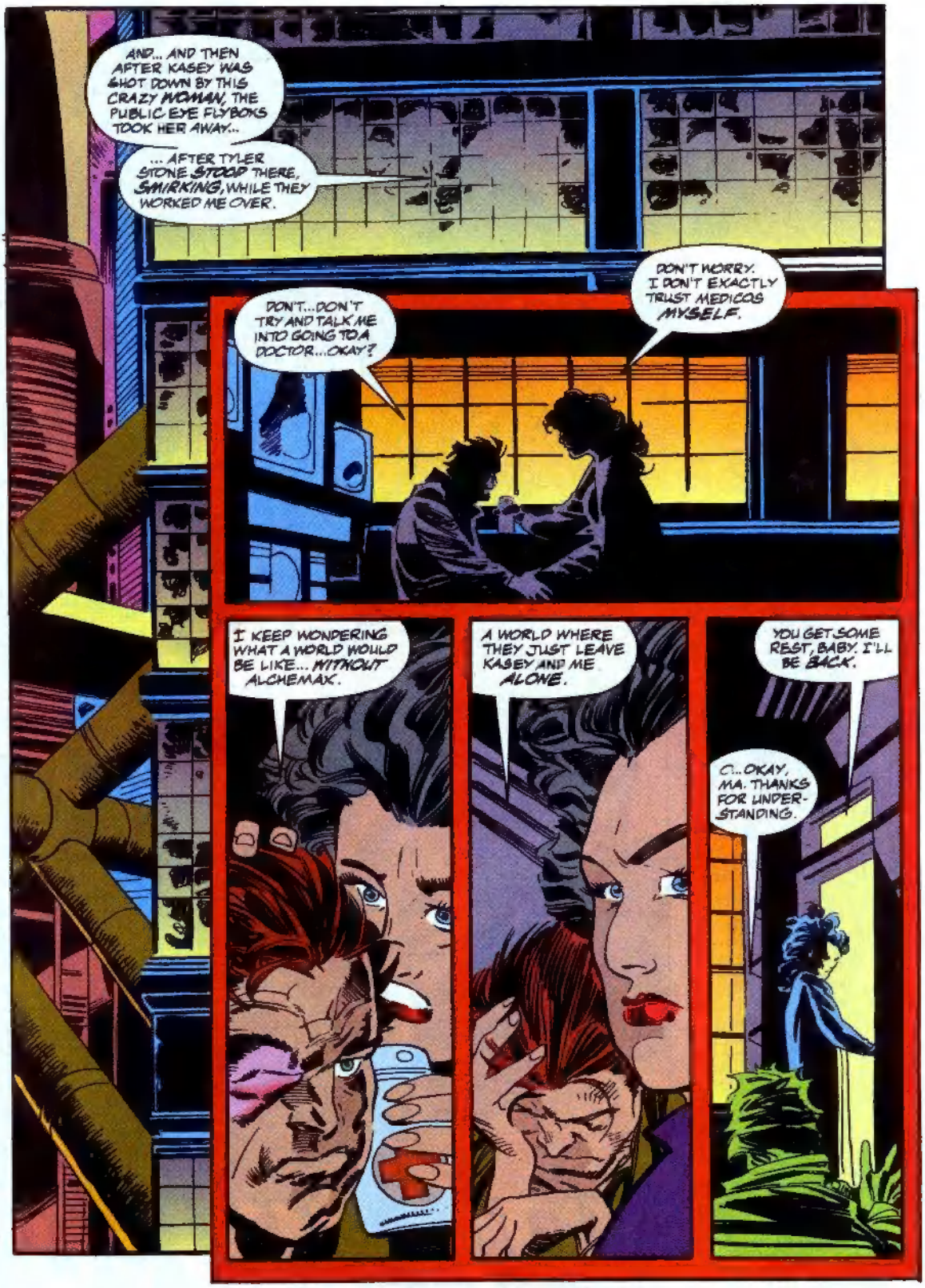
AND... AND THEN AFTER KASEY WAS SHOT DOWN BY THIS CRAZY WOMAN, THE PUBLIC EYE FLYBOYS TOOK HER AWAY...
... AFTER TYLER STONE STOOD THERE, SMIRKING, WHILE THEY WORKED ME OVER.
DON'T... DON'T TRY AND TALK ME INTO GOING TO A DOCTOR... OKAY?
DON'T WORRY. I DON'T EXACTLY TRUST MEDICOS MYSELF.
I KEEP WONDERING WHAT A WORLD WOULD BE LIKE... WITHOUT ALCHEMAX.
A WORLD WHERE THEY JUST LEAVE KASEY AND ME ALONE.
YOU GET SOME REST, BABY. I'LL BE BACK.
C... OKAY, MA. THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING.

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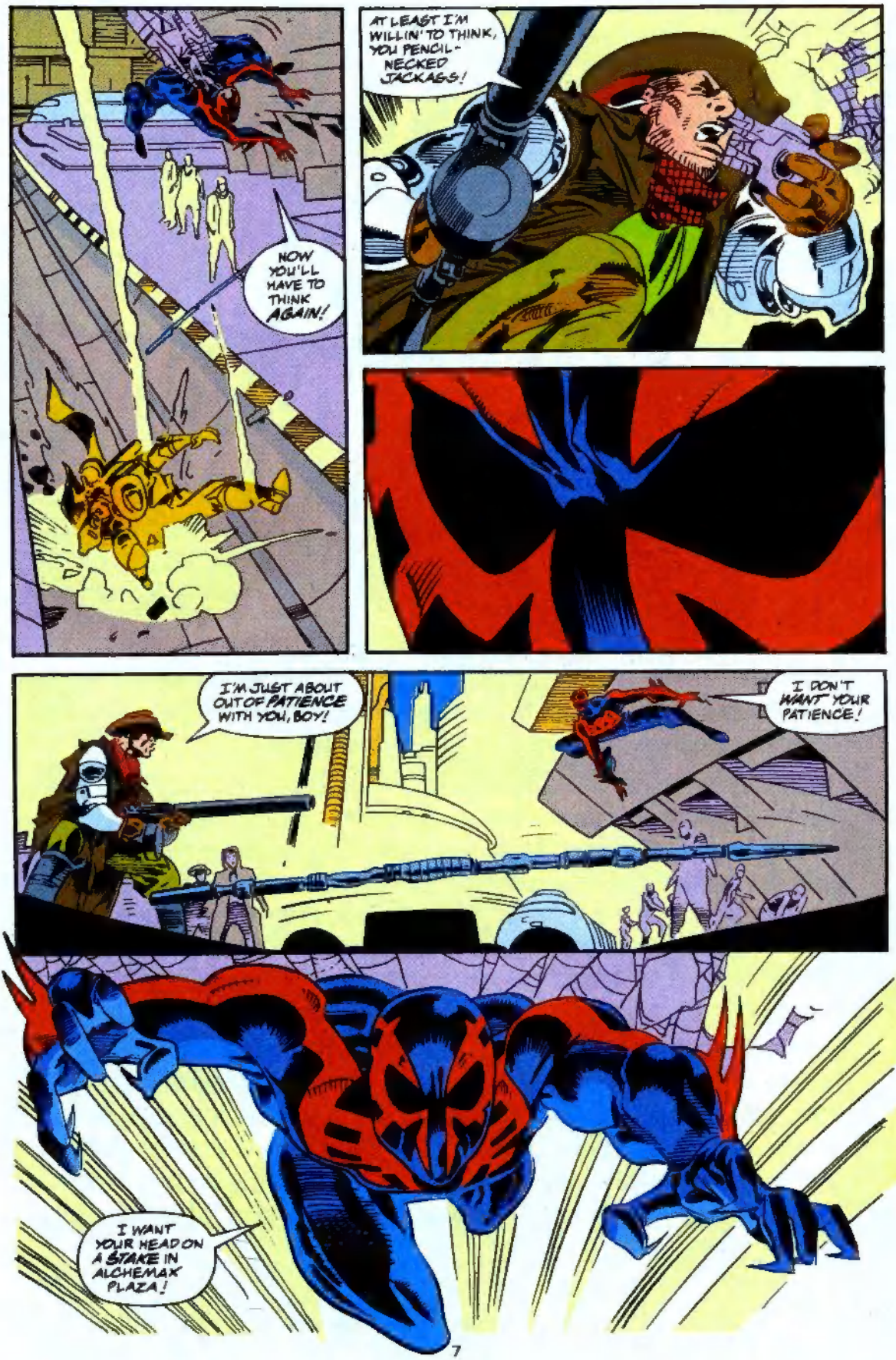
IT'S UP TO ME TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
FIGURES.
NEITHER OF MY SONS WAS EVER WORTH MUCH IN A FIGHT.
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TRUTH HURTS
REVEALED BY:
PETER DAVID WRITER
RICK LEONARDI PENCILER
AL WILLIAMSON INKER
KEN LOPEZ LETTERER
STEVE BUCCELLATO COLORIST
JOEY CAVALIERI EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO CRYPTKEEPER

WELL NOW! A LOT FEISTIER THAN WHEN WE FIRST MET, AIN'TCHA, BOY?

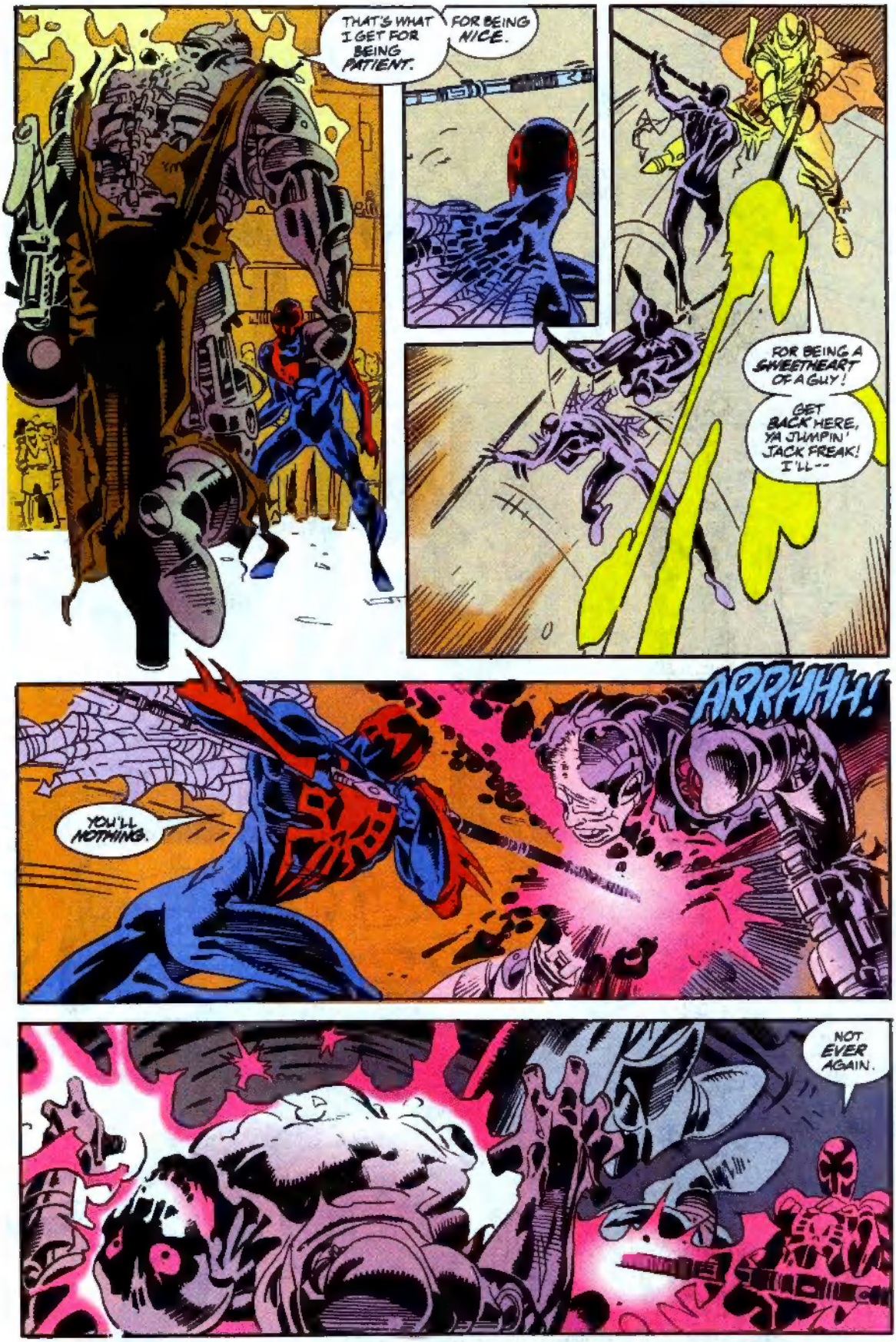
SHOCKIN' RIGHT.
BECAUSE IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO BE SCARED, EASY PICKINGS LIKE LAST TIME... YOU'RE IN FOR A RUDE AWAKENING.
FWFZZ
ALL RIGHT, BOY, THAT'S MORE'N ENOUGH OF THAT THERE!
OHHH NO YOU DON'T!

FWIZZ
NO LETUP, VENTURE!
NO MERCY!
YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE, BOY! I--
THE ONLY MISTAKE I EVER MADE WAS GOING EASY ON YOU THE FIRST TIME.
THE CORPS AND GUYS LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN HARASSING ME AND MINE SINCE I FIRST GOT THESE POWERS.
MAYBE YOU THOUGHT I WAS WEAK!


NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO THINK AGAIN!
AT LEAST I'M WILLIN' TO THINK, YOU PENCIL-NECKED JACKASS!
I'M JUST ABOUT OUT OF PATIENCE WITH YOU, BOY!
I DON'T WANT YOUR PATIENCE!
I WANT YOUR HEAD ON A STAKE IN ALCHEMAX PLAZA!

OKAY, S-MAN, IT'S YOUR CALL! I DIDN'T WANNA HAVE TO HURT YA...!
JUST YOUR LUCK, BOUNTY HUNTER...
...THAT I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR YOU!
OOOOFF!!
WH...WHAT'VE YOU DONE?!
YOU IDIOT! THE MAGLEV TRACK'S HOLDING MY METAL BODY!
SPIDER-MAN! GET YOUR BUTT BACK HERE AND GET ME OUTTA THIS, RIGHT N--

OWWWWWWW!
I... I can't believe I did that.
THAT WAS NOT FUNNY.

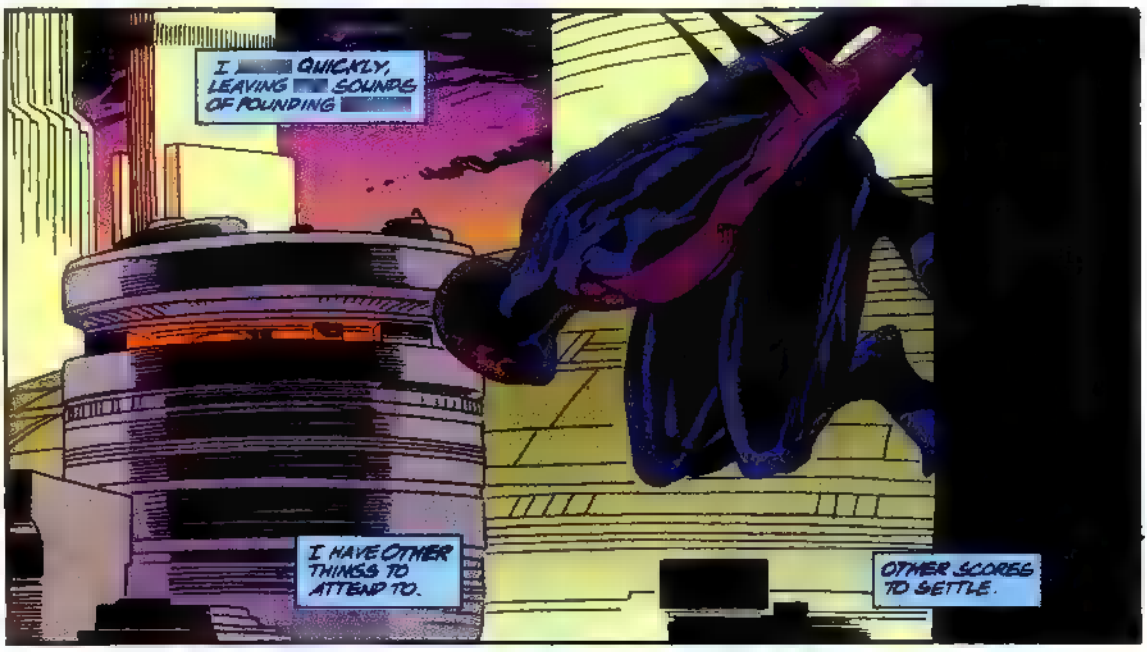

THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR BEING PATIENT.
FOR BEING NICE.
FOR BEING A SWEETHEART OF A GUY!
GET BACK HERE, YA JUMPIN' JACK FREAK! I'LL--
YOU'LL NOTHING.
ARRHHH!
NOT EVER AGAIN.

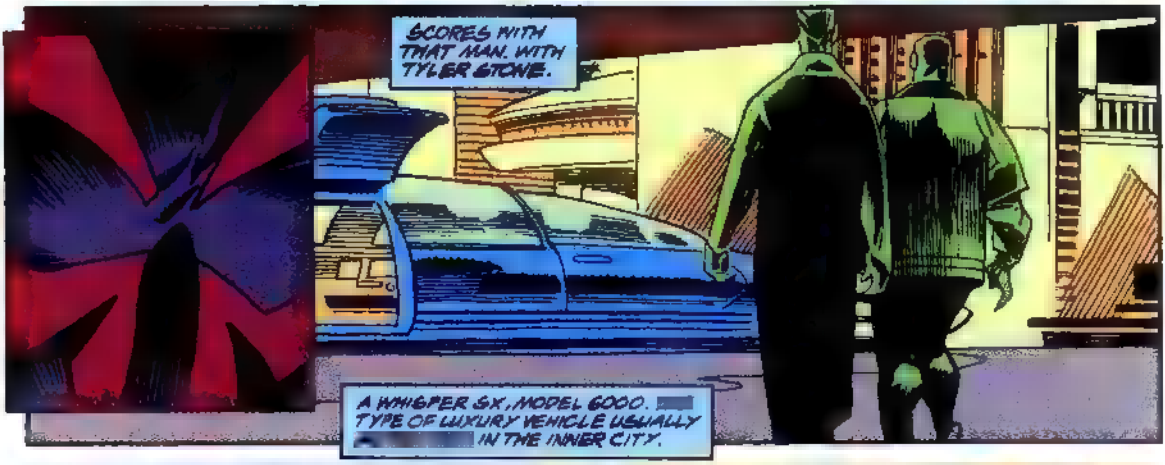
HAD ENOUGH?
VENTURE?
IF YOU THINK I'M COMING OVER THERE TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE OUT, YOU CAN FORGET IT.
YOU CAN JUST LIE THERE UNTIL YOU ROT. WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?
SHNOOF
I SAY THAT YOU ARE IN DEEP TROUBLE, BOY.

RUN START-UP PROGRAM A.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU... HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. PRES-I-DENT...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.
RUN GREETING PROGRAM B. INSERT NAME.
HELLO, DANA. HOW ARE YOU?
ERROR. MY NAME IS XINA.
YES, I KNOW, BUT HER NAME IS DANA.
WELL, WELL... LOOK WHO'S HERE.
MIGGY! GET YOUR CLOTHES ON, SWEETIE! COMPANY'S HERE!
HE'LL BE JUST A SEC, PUDDIN'.

YOU DON'T SERIOUSLY THINK I'D LEAVE MY WORKS OPEN [redacted] GETTIN' WHUPPED THE SAME WAY TWICE, DID'JA?
LIKED [redacted]'A TOUGH GUY? WELL...SO DO I.
WE GOT A STALEMATE HERE. I CAN RETRIEVE MY HANDS AND WE CAN FIGHT S'MORE, BUT I AIN'T INTERESTED IN THAT.
OH, REALLY?
YUP. 'CAUSE IF YOU'D ONLY LISTENED, I'D'VE TOLD YOU I WAS OBLIGED FOR YOUR CLEANING MY SISTER'S CLOCK.
I ONLY [redacted] MAD AT YOU FOR A FEW MONTHS...BUT I GOT A LIFETIME OF HATRED FOR HER.
IF YA HADN'T COME OUT SWINGIN', WE MIGHT EVEN'A GOT T'BE [redacted]. AS IT IS, WELL...
NEXT TIME, I'LL KILL YA.
NOTHIN' PERSONAL.
YOU STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT POWER, SON. WHEN TO USE IT...AND WHEN NOT TO.
SOMETIMES... POWER MEANS DIDDLY.

THANKS FOR THE WORDS OF WISDOM.
Y'WELCOME.
RISQUE?
YOU OKAY, SIS?
VENOM'S...WEARING OFF... BUT IT EFFECTED ALL MY INTERNALS...
STILL CAN'T MOVE...
DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED.
CAN YA FEEL ANY-THING?
A LITTLE.
GOOD.
WHAK!
WHAK!
ARRH!
ACKK!

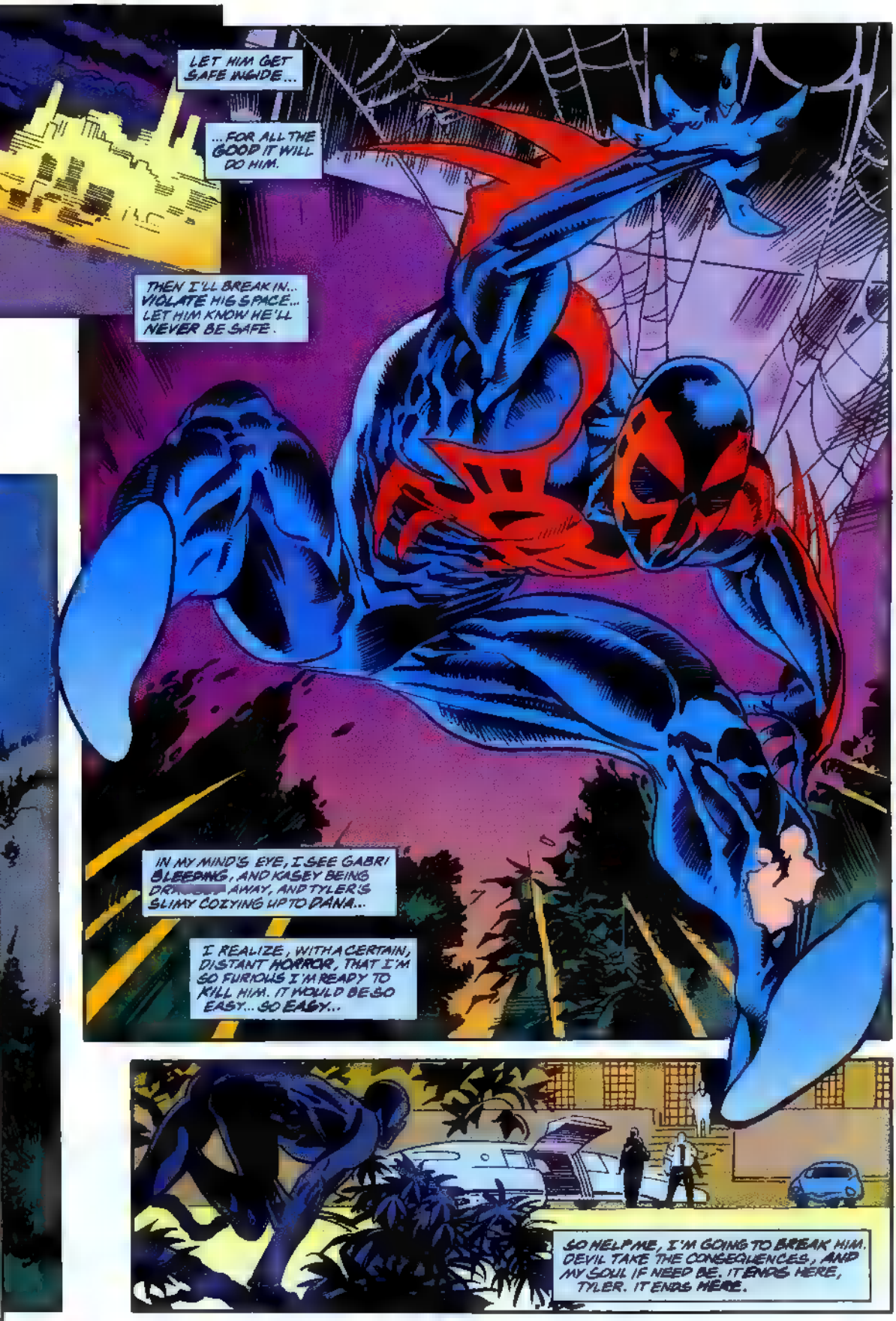

I [redacted] QUICKLY, LEAVING [redacted] SOUNDS OF POUNDING [redacted]
I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO ATTEND TO.
OTHER SCORES TO SETTLE.


SCORES WITH THAT MAN, WITH TYLER STONE.
A WHISPER SX, MODEL 6000. [redacted] TYPE OF LUXURY VEHICLE USUALLY [redacted] IN THE INNER CITY.

NOT THAT RULES HAVE EVER MEANT MUCH TO TYLER STONE. HE HAS AS LITTLE USE FOR RULES AS HE DOES FOR OTHER CONCEPTS...

CONCEPTS SUCH AS PITY...
...AND COMPASSION...
...AND MERCY... AND LOVE.
BUT FEAR... FEAR HE CAN BE MADE TO FEEL.
FEAR I CAN DRIVE INTO HIM. MAKE HIM FEEL WHAT GABBY FELT WHEN STONE'S GOONS MESSED HIM UP.
LIKE WHAT KASEY FELT WHEN SHE WAS ARRESTED.
LIKE I FELT WHEN I FIRST LEARNED HE'D ADDICTED ME TO RAPTURE SO I'D STAY ONLINE AS A COMPANY STOOGE.

NOW ME... I'VE LEARNED TO SHUT OFF THE FEAR I ONCE FELT SO I COULD OPERATE AS SPIDER-MAN.
JUST AS, I GUESS, ME LEARNED TO SHUT OFF HIS HUMANITY SO HE COULD FUNCTION. I SUPPOSE WE'RE ALIKE IN THAT WAY.
BUT WHAT IT COMES DOWN TO NOW... JUST AS VENTURE SAID... IS POWER. I'M SICK OF STONE HAVING POWER OVER ME AND MINE.
WHATEVER IT TAKES... WHATEVER... I WILL HAVE POWER OVER HIM.
I COULD HAVE TAKEN DOWN HIS CAR IN MID AIR. BUT THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DANGEROUS FOR INNOCENT PEOPLE IF IT CRASHED.
BESIDES... I WANT HIM TO FEEL AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE.
LET HIM COME HOME TO HIS MANSION, THEN.


LET HIM GET SAFE INSIDE...
...FOR ALL THE GOOD IT WILL DO HIM.
THEN I'LL BREAK IN... VIOLATE HIS SPACE... LET HIM KNOW HE'LL NEVER BE SAFE.
IN MY MIND'S EYE, I SEE GABRI SLEEPING, AND KASEY BEING DR[illegible] AWAY, AND TYLER'S SLIMY COZYING UP TO DANA...
I REALIZE, WITH A CERTAIN, DISTANT HORROR, THAT I'M SO FURIOUS I'M READY TO KILL HIM. IT WOULD BE SO EASY... SO EASY...
SO HELP ME, I'M GOING TO BREAK HIM. DEVIL TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES, AND MY SOUL IF NEED BE. IT ENDS HERE, TYLER. IT ENDS HERE.

WELL! WHEN THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE WAITING IN THE FOYER, I THOUGHT THEY WERE JOKING.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.
UH HUH.
LOOK, I'LL TRY TO KEEP THIS AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLE.
WOULD YOU LIKE A DRINK?
...
WELL, A SLIGHTLY LONGER STAY WON'T HURT.
I GLIDE PAST HIS DETECTION DEVICES, MY ACCELERATED VISION HELPING ME PAST HIS MOTION SENSORS, AND MY STEALTH GETTING ME BEYOND CAMERA RANGE UNSEEN.
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THAT MY HANDS ARE TWITCHING.
I THINK THEY'RE ANTICIPATING BEING WRAPPED AROUND HIS THROAT.

FIRE UP BY 25%.
COMPLIED.
THERE. HOW'S THAT?
GOOD. NOW THROW YOURSELF INTO IT AND BURN.
LOOK, TYLER, HERE IT IS: YOUR GOONS BEAT UP GABRI.
HE THREATENED US WITH A GUN, CONCHATA. DID HE TELL YOU THAT?
YOU WERE MAKING OFF WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND.
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE CRIMINALS FOR GIRLFRIENDS.
I WANT YOU TO LET HER GO. WHEREVER YOU HAVE HER STASHED.
LET HER GO, CLEAN HER RECORD, AND LET THEM BE.
HA HA HA HA HAAA
I HEAR HIM. DOWNSTAIRS SOMEWHERE. LAUGHING AT SOMETHING... PROBABLY AT SOMEONE'S MISERY, KNOWING HIM.

NOW I HEAR A GLASS SHATTERING... AND VOICES.
HE'S GOT SOMEONE WITH HIM.
BAD LUCK FOR THE COMPANY.
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO! GABRI TOLD ME YOU ADDICTED MIGUEL TO RAPTURE. AND NOW THIS!
DO YOU HATE ME SO MUCH, TYLER, THAT YOU KEEP TORTURING MY FAMILY?
IT'S JUST BUSINESS, MY DEAR! NOTHING PERSONAL.
THAT MAKES IT WORSE.
ALL RIGHT. HERE'S BUSINESS FOR YOU. LET KASEY GO, CLEAN SLATE, OR I BRING YOU DOWN.
OH REALLY? HOW?
HOW WOULD YOUR EX-FATHER-IN-LAW REACT IF HE KNEW JUST HOW YOU WERE INVOLVED...
...IN THE DEATH OF HIS DAUGHTER...
...YOUR LATE WIFE?
THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH LEFT OF YOU FOR DNA TRACES.
YOU'VE GOT NO PROOF.
YES I DO. I ALWAYS HAVE. OH, AND SHOULD SOMETHING HAPPEN TO ME, IT GOES STRAIGHT TO DADDY-KINS.
YOU'RE BLUFFING.
GOT THE STONES TO CALL ME ON IT, TYLER?

OH
MY
LORD.
YOU ALWAYS WERE THE ONLY WOMAN WHO WAS EVER A MATCH FOR ME, CONNIE.
YOU'LL PARDON ME IF I DON'T TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
MISS NASH WILL BE RELEASED, UNHARMED, WITHIN THE HOUR.
GOOD.
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE ME... BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I NEVER HARMED MIKE. I COULDN'T, AS WELL YOU KNOW.
HE ONLY THOUGHT IT WAS RAPTURE, BUT IT WAS A SIMULATION. THREE DAYS, MAX, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OUT OF HIS SYSTEM WITH NO TRACE.
IT WAS A DESPERATION MOVE. DIDN'T WORK, OBVIOUSLY. THAT'S WHY I NEVER PROBED TOO DEEPLY ABOUT HOW HE WAS DEALING WITH HIS "ADDICTION."
NO... HE'S GOTTA BE LYING...
THAT WOULD MEAN... THE ACCIDENT... ALL OF IT...
...UNNECESSARY! I COULD HAVE HAD A NORMAL LIFE! I...!

HE MUST BE LYING! HE SAID HE COULD "NEVER" HARM ME, BUT THAT'S A CROCK. WHAT POSSIBLE REASON COULD THERE BE THAT HE--
YOUR HUMANITY SHINES THROUGH AS ALWAYS, TYLER.
HATE ME ALL YOU WANT, CONNIE, YOU JUST CAN'T ADMIT THAT I COULD HAVE GENUINE AFFECTION FOR MIKE.
YOU'D RATHER I WAS INCAPABLE OF FEELING AFFECTION FOR ANYONE.
I KNOW THAT YOU...
YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ME, TYLER, ANY MORE THAN MIGUEL DOES.
I KNOW THAT MIGUEL THINKS I HATE HIM BECAUSE EVERY TIME I LOOK AT HIM, I SEE MY ABUSIVE, COMPANY-LOVING LATE HUSBAND IN MIGUEL'S FACE.
THAT'S NOT TRUE, OF COURSE.
I DON'T SEE GEORGE O'HARA WHEN I LOOK AT MIGUEL.
I SEE MIGUEL'S FATHER INSTEAD.
MORE AND MORE EACH DAY, I SEE YOU IN HIM.
AND IF YOU EVER TELL HIM, I'LL KILL YOU.
NEXT:
HOSTILE TAKEOVER